

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 99

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate R. A. Dickey, 2012 National League Cy Young Award winner.

WHEREAS, it was with immense pride that the members of this General Assembly learned that Mr. Robert Allen Dickey, a native of Nashville, Tennessee, was selected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America as the winner of the 2012 National League Cy Young Award; and

WHEREAS, proving himself to be the premier pitcher in the National League, R. A. Dickey enjoyed a stellar season as his unrivaled knuckleball mowed down batters by the score as they failed to make solid contact with the baffling pitch only a rare few have perfected; and

WHEREAS, the first knuckleballer in Major League Baseball history to win the Cy Young Award for pitching excellence, Mr. Dickey's 2012 season with the New York Mets is one for the history books as he led the league in strikeouts, innings pitched, complete games, and shutouts, while ranking second in wins and earned runs average (ERA); and

WHEREAS, a 1993 graduate of Montgomery Bell Academy, Mr. Dickey attended the University of Tennessee where he was a star pitcher for the Volunteers, setting the school record for career wins as he accumulated a record of 38-10 with a 3.40 ERA during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, a member of the bronze-medal winning 1996 U.S. Olympic baseball team, R. A. Dickey was a 1996 first round draft pick of the Texas Rangers and made his major league debut for the Rangers on April 22, 2001; and

WHEREAS, seeking to extend his career in 2006 after leaving the Rangers, R.A. Dickey turned from being a conventional pitcher and sought to perfect his knuckleball with the help and

guidance of legendary knuckleball pitchers Phil Neikro, Tim Wakefield, and Charlie Hough as he fought his way back to The Show from the minor leagues of professional baseball; and

WHEREAS, returning to the major leagues in 2008 with the Seattle Mariners, Mr. Dickey also played for the Minnesota Twins in 2009 before joining the New York Mets for the 2010-2012 seasons; and

WHEREAS, only the third New York Met pitcher to ever win the Cy Young Award, R. A. Dickey's remarkable 2012 season saw him post a record of 20-6, with a league-leading 230 strikeouts and 233.2 innings pitched while setting a team record of 32.2 consecutive scoreless innings; and

WHEREAS, the recipient of the Branch Rickey Award for 2012, Mr. Dickey was recognized as National League Player of the Month in June, honored by *The Sporting News* as National League Pitcher of the Year, and named to the 2012 National League All-Star team; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that the members of this General Assembly specially recognize and commend this esteemed gentleman and true son of the State of Tennessee on his extraordinary success; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate R.A. Dickey, 2012 National League Cy Young Award winner, on his extraordinary season and wish him much continued success in all his endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.